



March 11, 2021

Mr. Curtis Shaw
President
Northwestel Inc.
301 LAMBERT STREET
WHITEHORSE YT Y1A 1E3

Dear Mr. Shaw:

**Letter of Support for
Northwestel's Behchokò Wireless Project ISED Universal Broadband Fund**

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Northwestel's Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) Application on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

Highways in the Northwest Territories (NWT) are remote, and our winter conditions can be especially challenging. Accidents and break downs happen. Wireless coverage will accelerate incident response and help deliver more positive outcomes to our residents.

While wireless coverage would add value elsewhere in the territory, getting coverage from Yellowknife to Behchokò is a priority. It is the busiest highway in the Territory, carrying significant commuter traffic to and from Behchokò daily. Truck traffic is also very high, especially during the ice road season.

The GNWT also appreciates the potential for increased wireless coverage on the North Arm of Great Slave Lake which is used year-round by residents.

The GNWT is committed to working with the Tłı̨chǫ Government and Northwestel to cover the annual operating costs of these assets. This should not be considered a barrier to proceeding with this project.

Sincerely,

Sandy Kalgutkar
Deputy Minister, Finance